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March 25, 1983

Honorable William Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

Recently you brought to my attention your deep concern about proposed changes in the federal retirement system. You clearly conveyed in our discussion the great uncertainty and confusion experienced by many Agency personnel about their personal situations.

In light of recent events, it is now possible for me to respond with some observations I trust will offer reassurance to serving Agency personnel. First, the FY 84 budget resolution passed by the House posits no savings associated with changes that would affect current serving federal employees in the Civil Service Retirement System or the CIA Retirement and Disability System. The only provision affecting such employees is a proposed 4 percent comparability increase in federal salaries. The FY 84 budget request contained no increase.

Second, the House leadership, the chairman of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee and I all agree that any consideration of changes in federal retirement systems must be considered thoroughly and deliberately. No House action on federal retirement changes is planned in 1983.

Third, if changes are considered which affect either CSRS or CIARDS, I intend to insure that the needs and special circumstances of all intelligence employees are fully understood. In particular, early retirement for overseas operational service should be retained.

As you will appreciate, the Senate has yet to act on a FY 84 budget resolution. I believe there is a similar hesitancy on the part of key Senators to change federal retirement policy at this time. In the event of a difference between two Houses, however, the House position on preserving the present system - particularly in the area of retirement ages - is a strong one upon which House conferees would be bound to insist.

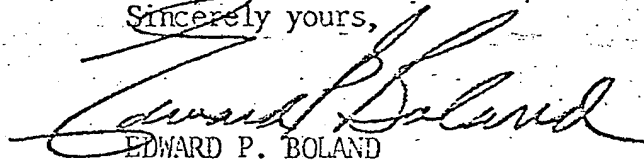
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I trust this letter will serve to reassure those employees who have questions about the Congress's attitude to the President's proposals. A competent federal work force, of which a strong intelligence cadre is an essential part, must have retirement systems competitive with those in the private sector. It must also have confidence that the essential features of those systems will not change.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,



EDWARD P. BOLAND
Chairman